V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 -6, 8-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Quest et al. (WO 00/74010) and further in view of Burckhartt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,596,711). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Quest teaches a display system for an entertainment machine. A coin-operated entertainment machine has a digital display device and a monitoring device. Machine signals are monitored and an error indication is given if there are anomalous signals. A player of the machine is thereby made aware that a malfunction has occurred. An error indication is given if a predetermined value, such as a maximum jackpot award, is exceeded. Repeated machine signals are monitored and any indication is given if there is a departure from a norm indicating that the machine has malfunctioned.

Burckhartt teaches a computer failure recovery and alert system. A computer system includes a timer which times out if the operating system of the computer system does not periodically reset the timer. When the computer system fails and no longer resets the timer, the timer times out, and the computer system is reset. The computer system performs its power on program and checks the memory array for bad memory blocks, which are mapped out of the memory. Next, the computer system alerts the operator of the failure using a pager. The computer system then reboots

itself from a hard drive having two separate bootable partitions, one for the operating system in the first partition and one for a diagnostics program in the second partition so that an operator may diagnose and remedy the problem. The operator may set an indication of which partition to use for booting. The system further provides for remote access so that the operator may interact with the diagnostics program from a remote location.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device and an abnormality notification device for notifying an abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs. Claim 1 recites that the abnormality notification device notifies information concerning with the abnormality in plural times according to stages of restoration work from an abnormal state to a normal state. Further, claim 1 recites that the information concerning the abnormality is displayed in an effect display area portion of the game result display device in a repeating series of information text messages with a subsequent one of the information text messages being at least substantially superimposed on an immediately preceding information text message such that a first information text message indicates the abnormality has occurred and a second information text message provides a removal procedure for removing the cause of the abnormality.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest that the information concerning the abnormality is displayed in an effect display area portion of the game result display device in a repeating series of information text messages with a subsequent one of the information text messages being at least substantially superimposed on an immediately preceding information text message such that a first information text message indicates the abnormality has occurred and a second information text message provides a removal procedure for removing the cause of the abnormality.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, in our opinion, claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 15, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device and an abnormality notification device for notifying abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs and an abnormality occurrence history storing device for counting a number of times of the abnormality occurrence and storing information concerning with the number of times of the abnormality occurrence. Claim 15 recites that the abnormality notification device notifies the information in plural times. Also, claim 15 recites that the number of times of the abnormality occurrence is classified into at least a first group and a second group and the first group corresponds to a first notifying mode and the second group corresponds to a second notifying mode. Further, claim 15 recites that the abnormality notification device notifies the abnormality through the first notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the first group and notifies the abnormality through the second notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the second group, based on the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 15 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the number of times of the abnormality occurrence is classified into at least a first group and a second group and the first group corresponds to a first notifying mode and the second group corresponds to a second notifying mode and that the abnormality notification device notifies the abnormality through the first notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the first

group and notifies the abnormality through the second notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the second group, based on the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is allowable over the applied art.

Furthermore, with regard to claim 15, the first wherein clause is amended such that "wherein the number of times of the abnormality occurrence is classified into at least a first group and a second group, and the first group corresponds to a first notifying mode and the second group corresponds to a second notifying mode,".

The amended first wherein clause provides for concise description of the second wherein clause. That is, it is literally intended to add the limitation that the number of times of the abnormality occurrence is classified into a first group and a second group and the first group and the second group are made to correspond to a first notifying mode and a second notifying mode, respectively.

The second wherein clause is amended such that "wherein the abnormality notification device notifies the abnormality through the first notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the first group and notifies the abnormality through the second notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the second group, based on the information stored in the abnormality history storing device.

In the amended second wherein clause, it is clarified that the abnormality notification device notifies the abnormality through the first notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the first group, and notifies through the second notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the second group.

The features directed to the first and second wherein clauses of claim 15 are not at all disclosed or taught in any cited references or any combinations of those references. Therefore, for these additional reasons, the amended claim 15 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, we propose to argue that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 8-14 are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Quest and Burckhartt as applied to above-mentioned claims and further in view of Loose et al. (EP 1 260 928).

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claim 14 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 16-19 also include features not shown in the applied art.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the

separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 6, 2007 By: _____
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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time (two months)

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